



Dealer News

January 2006

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Published by:
CPT Rob Fortune

FROM THE COMMANDER...

Dealer Friends and Family:

Since this is the first official "newsletter" that we have sent out, let me recap our activities since we arrived in theater. The battalion has been hard at work since we departed from Fort Hood in late November. We initially deployed to Kuwait and prepared for combat operations in Iraq. This included unloading our ships, receiving the flights of soldiers coming in from Fort Hood, conducting a series of training events in the Kuwaiti desert, and the loading of our equipment onto flatbed trucks for the movement north. In mid December, the battalion began the task of moving from Camp Buehring in Kuwait to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Iskandariyah in Iraq. Dealers moved across the Iraqi border in up-armored Humvees, in the turrets of tanks and Bradleys, or in planes and helicopters from Kuwait to Baghdad and then to the FOB.

We transitioned our little slice of Iraq from the 1st Battalion of the 155th Infantry Regiment of the Mississippi National Guard. The battalion took responsibility for our area of operations at one minute

past midnight on the 30th of December. As all of you know, we had already suffered our first casualty by that point. The battalion was saddened at the loss of Corporal Aaron Forbes. Aaron was killed by an explosion during a patrol on the 28th of December. His wife and son are in our thoughts and prayers.

We have continued the mission of working with the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to bring stability to our area which includes the holy city of Karbala, where Bush (B company) primarily operates; the city of Musayyib, which is maintained by Dog (D company); and the region known as Jurf as Sukhr which is shared by Carnivore (C company) and Archangel (A company). Eliminator (E company) has responsibility for the Euphrates River and the land north and east of our FOB. Hellcat (HHC) and Fury (F company) keep the battalion running with logistics, maintenance, medical, staff work, scouting and mortar operations. Each of A, B, C and D companies are organized as "teams" with their attached medics and mechanics and with one platoon swapped with its sister company. One of Archangel's infantry platoons has traded places with a tank platoon from Dog, and Bush

and Carnivore have made the same swap. This gives each line company additional flexibility in taking the fight to the enemy.

Each company has engaged the enemy in combat operations and has done so successfully. Eliminator reacted to the attack on the 28th of December with a cordon and search of 30 homes in an attempt to detain the men responsible for the explosion that killed CPL Forbes and our Iraqi interpreter, and wounded two others. Archangel has launched two critical operations including "Operation First Bite" and "Dealer Daze Phase II" which resulted in the detainment of a number of enemy combatants. Carnivore has been in the thick of the action as well with a number of engagements. The enemy has learned that C Company's tankers and infantrymen mean business. Carnivore spent 16 days operating out of a true desert tactical assembly area, living on their tanks and Bradleys in the open desert. This allowed the battalion to maneuver on the enemy at times and places that we chose, which has been the lynchpin for much of the battalion's success thus far.

In another critical operation, Archangel and Carnivore grabbed a piece of terrain from the enemy that we refer to as "the Island" where they found nearly five hundred rounds of mortar and artillery rounds, mortar systems, rifles and other tools of the insurgents trade. All this was the result of an infantry platoon sergeant's decision to exploit the tactical opportunity that he

was presented. None of this would have been possible without the soldiers of Fury going out on the road each day to re-supply C Company in the field as well as supporting the numerous re-supply convoys to FOBs Kalsu and Duke each week.

The other companies have had equal success. Dog has launched a number of raids and has been at the forefront of targeting the insurgents in our area of operations. Bush has a very complex mission with a large sector, responsibility for partnering with 2 Iraqi Army Companies and the difficult chore of running the Joint Coordination Center in Karbala each day.

Every company has seen action. Almost every company has a soldier that has met the requirements for the Purple Heart. At the time of this writing, twelve soldiers have earned that distinction which speaks to the intensity of the battalion's activities and to the fact that all the companies are in the mix each day. You can truly be proud of your Dealer

On the FOB itself, the Sergeants Major and the HHC team have made vast improvements to the living conditions of our soldiers. The mess hall has been cleaned up and serves two hot meals each day with sandwiches for lunch most days. The new contracted Dining Facility has arrived and is operational which is a big morale booster. Hellcat has opened the mini-shoppette on the FOB providing the necessities of life such as Doritos and Iced Tea.

A critical component to the battalion's achievements, but one that often goes unmentioned, are those family members who have chosen to step forward and agreed to fill leadership roles in the Family Readiness Groups. We truly appreciate all that you are doing keeping our families informed and battling the rumor mill. Rest assured that we are getting information to the FRGs as fast as we are allowed, but we must ensure that the official notification process for soldiers is always followed. Again, if you get a phone call from an FRG volunteer it HAS to be good news. Only a uniformed serviceman or servicewoman can deliver the somber news of a death or serious injury of a loved one – so don't be unhappy when the FRG calls!

The pace has been quick so far. The soldiers have been busy. Every soldier participates in the success of the battalion each day. The rifleman is equally important to the quartermaster soldier and the intelligence analyst in this fight. Each Dealer is integral to this very complex mission. Each Dealer is valued. No matter what your Dealer's MOS (job) is, you can be sure that he or she is helping us achieve success. Morale here is good, but never better than when the mail truck arrives with letters and packages from home. Keep 'em coming.

LTC Pat Donahoe
Dealer 6

Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil

HELLCAT NEWS

The Hellcats would like to say hello from FOB Iskandariyah to all of our wives, families and supporters out there. It has been a very busy month and a half since we departed from FT Hood. I would first like to start by saying that everyone is doing a great job and I have never been more proud of a group of soldiers than I am of the Hellcats. The mortars have established a firing point and continue to conduct combat patrols throughout our area of operation. The medics have established themselves as a very professional platoon and have continued to provide treatment to both American and Iraqi forces that have been wounded in combat operations. The scouts have performed their traditional mission with professionalism and have even adopted nontraditional roles like providing Dealer 6 and 7 with top-notch security. They have also provided convoy security for missions moving up to Baghdad. The signal section has had their hands full trying to maintain communications while in the shadow of a huge power plant. The staff has been working non stop and are using state of the art digital equipment to help track and coordinate combat missions. Although the operational tempo is high, soldiers still remain motivated and vigilant.

Even in Iraq we unfortunately have had to change out personnel, we would like to thank CPT Pablo

Diaz for his 20 months of dedicated service to the Death Dealers; he took command of B/3-16 FA on 20 JAN. CPT Jarrod Ison took his place as the Battalion Fire Support Officer; we would like to welcome him to the Death Dealers. There has also been some officer moves with in the company; HELLCAT 5, CPT Kris Waldhauser has moved up and become the battle captain for the S3 section. He is undoubtedly one of the most loyal and brightest officers I have ever worked with and will be sorely missed at the company. CPT Nate Nelson has moved from the scout platoon to assume duties as the company XO, his reputation is exceptional and will be an added bonus as HELLCAT 5.

We would like to congratulate the following soldiers for their hard earned promotion.

PFC Azcueta

PFC Sebran

PFC Mitchell

PFC Durgin

SPC Cutler

SPC Brown

SPC Thomas

SPC Shifley

We would like to welcome the following mortarmen to the NCO Corps

SGT Dejesus

SGT Goetzinger

The Hellcats will start mid-tour leave starting on 1 February; everyone should have the opportunity to take leave. Soldiers will take leave based on personal preference, mission requirements, and availability. I will only have visibility two weeks out so

please be careful when scheduling any events.

Finally I know it has been hard being away from your loved one, but know this, he is doing a great job and he is making a difference in a country that has never had a chance to succeed. Thank you for your continued support.

CPT Robert Perry

Hellcat 6

ARCHANGEL NEWS

Greetings from FOB ISKANDARIYA. The soldiers of A CO are doing well here in Iraq as we continue to secure our area of operations. After a long month of traveling and training in Kuwait and movement to Forward Operating Base ISKANDARIYA, the Assassins have taken the mission from the 1-155 IN and are working hand in hand with our counterparts in the Iraqi Police to secure our area of operations. As you know, CPT Nahas rebroke his leg and was evacuated out of the country. He is now home resting after surgery. With his departure, I was given the challenge to be the next Assassin 6.

I am proud, as well as you should be, of the performance of your soldiers in A CO. They have taken the challenge of securing this area with great pride and work hard every day to ensure that the area is safe for our soldiers and the Iraqis. We have conducted several operations to clear particular parts of the area of insurgent activity. These operations have allowed us to

get several known insurgents off the street and into prison. Daily they patrol our area of operations, talk with locals, and ensure a safe and secure environment within our area.

Very soon, our soldiers will begin to take leave from theater. Soldiers will be allowed to take 15 days of leave. The leave date begins when the soldier arrives back in the states, not when he leaves the FOB. Soldiers will be flown to one of two locations based on where they are going on leave; either Dallas, TX or Atlanta, GA. The military will then sign the soldier out and give them a ticket to and from their destination from those two airports. They will have to sign back in on the 15th day back at the airport they arrived from overseas. This will be a good time for you and your soldier to decompress, relax and get to spend some quality time together. We will be allowed to send only 10% of the company at one time so no more than about 12 people at a time. This process will go on until we reach the end of August or September.

I would like to take a few minutes and introduce myself and my wife to you. I have been in the Army for 10 years and have served as a platoon leader, executive officer, and staff officer in the 101st Airborne Division. My first tour in Iraq was on staff with the 101st. Additionally, for the last 20 months I have been on the battalion staff of 1-67 as the Assistant Operations Officer planning operations conducted by the battalion. My wife, Desiree, and I have been married for 9 years in March

and we have no kids. She is currently attending Nursing School at the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor and is from Cullman, Alabama. We are both extremely happy to be here and hope to continue the tradition of excellence that this company has instilled over the last year of its existence.

I thank you for your sacrifice and for allowing me to command such a fine group of soldiers as these.

CPT Tony Kron
Archangel 6

BUSHMASTER NEWS

It is January already. The Bushmasters will have been gone for over two months by the time anyone in the states reads this newsletter. Christmas has come and gone and 2005 passed with little of the fanfare that we usually enjoy. We were able to enjoy Christmas with a first class meal served by the Battalion Commander and Sergeant Major from our dining facility. The Christmas meal was complete with turkey, ham, and apple pie. The New Year found most soldiers busy in their work and busy learning our new area of operation.

The few soldiers that could manage time away from missions had the chance to enjoy a night of fun at the dining facility, which is doubling as a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) center. The Battalion sponsored a DJ for entertainment as well as the chance to embarrass yourself with a little karaoke. All in all, the holidays passed by very

quickly. For those of you that were not able to talk to your loved ones during the holidays, we send our love and wish you the best with the start of the New Year.

Our movement from Kuwait into Iraq went quickly. Transportation arrived in mid December and most of the company left in 2-3 days. Some of us had our first experience with military transportation as we boarded C-130 air force planes bound for a hub in Iraq. From there we enjoyed a short flight in CH-47 and CH-46 helicopters which took us to our final destination at FOB (Forward Operating Base) Iskandariyah. The soldiers that were not able to fly embarked on a three day ground convoy from Kuwait to the FOB. By the end of December, all personnel and equipment were at the FOB. Everyone was in a hurry to get settled in, start our mission, and transfer authority from the 1st Battalion of the 155th Infantry Regiment (Mississippi National Guard) to our unit. The National Guard unit we replaced are now back home with their families, after a year of hard work and dedication to their mission. The current mission of providing freedom and safety to the people of Iraq is now in the hands of 1-67 AR and the Bushmasters.

The FOB is situated on top of a thermal power plant that provides 1/3 of the electrical power for Baghdad. Our company is situated adjacent to the plant's four large smoke stacks. Our housing is nicknamed "Russian Village (See photos below)." It is austere living, but it is

actually much nicer than most of the battalion which is living in large tents. Our accommodations consist of 2-3 man rooms equipped with electricity and bunk beds. We have a rustic shower house with running water which allows us to freshen up after a long day of combat patrols. For recreation, we have a TV room with Armed Forces Network Satellite (AFN) and a weight room. In the next few weeks we hopefully will have our own internet café too. In addition to our own area, the FOB is also equipped with a laundry/sewing facility, a dining facility, an internet café and phone center.



*View of "Russian Village,"
Bravo Company Barracks.*



*Iskandariyah power plant
smoke stacks- View from Bravo
Company barracks.*

Our dining facility provides us with two hot meals a day. We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a contracted food service which

will dramatically improve the selection of food for the soldiers. We also have a small store which will provide basic soldier necessities.

Since our arrival, the Bushmasters have conducted numerous missions. Most of these have consisted of security missions inside or around the holy city of Karbala. Karbala is considered the 2nd holiest city in Shia Islam and is home to two very large mosques/shrines...the Hussein and the Abbas. We have also started to form partnerships with Iraqi security forces. We have already conducted several joint security missions with the 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Division. Our company has the largest battle space in the battalion, so we continue to explore new areas and meet new people everyday.

Our time in Iraq has been busy thus far and will continue to challenge all of us in the coming months. We thank everyone for their continued support, love and prayers. We could not accomplish our mission without you keeping the home fires burning. God bless each one of you and thank you again for your support. Please contact me directly at matthew.koehler@us.army.mil if you have any questions or concerns, or contact my wife at eshea2002@yahoo.com if you have a question concerning the family readiness group.

CPT Matthew Koehler
Bush 6

CARNIVORE NEWS

Greetings to the Families and Friends of the Carnivores:

I cannot stress enough how proud everyone should be of their Carnivore Soldier. Since the Company arrived at FOB Iskandariyah on 22 DEC 05, we have conducted continuous and rigorous operations against the enemy. Of note, the reason you have not been hearing from your loved one is that we spent 16 days forward deployed in a tactical assembly area (TAA). From our forward location, we postured ourselves for continuous operations against the enemy. Away from the creature comforts of the FOB, your Soldier worked non-stop conducting patrols in sector, raids, finding weapons caches, finding IEDs, and pulling security on the perimeter of our TAA. The men rested very little but maintained extremely high morale throughout our time in sector. We are currently back inside the wire of the FOB, and the men are using the time to conduct much-needed maintenance on vehicles and weapons, as well as resting and refitting themselves. By the time you receive this message, the Carnivores will be back in the fight continuing our operations against the enemy.

Our continuous operations against the enemy disrupted their normal activities and forced the insurgents to react to our own maneuvers. To date, we have detained or sent to the hospital five very bad individuals. Our operation with Alpha Company resulted

in numerous caches being found which should greatly hamper the enemy's ability to emplace IEDs in our sector. Finally, our numerous patrols are allowing the Soldiers to gain increased knowledge of both the terrain and inhabitants in our area of operations.

I would like to extend a formal welcome the newest members of the Carnivore team – Kymarius Ny'Shawn Powers, 23 Nov 05; Marcus Jordan Gilliard, 10 DEC 05; Brooklyn Aveanly Stemple, 17 DEC 05; Alannah Mazie Dunda. 31 DEC 05; To the spouses, I'm sure you wish your husbands were there to lend a helping hand, but they are accomplishing tremendous feats for the people and country of Iraq right now.

For the month of February, the following soldiers are scheduled for leave:

PVT Dunda, SPC Henry Powers, PVT Gilliard, PVT Perez, PV2 Carlisle, PVT McKenzie, PVT Christopher Powers, SGT Jolley, PFC Stemple, PVT Getchell, PFC Hoang, PFC Rosales, and PFC Craycraft.

Promotions for the month of January included the following: SGT Record, SGT Leyde, SPC Willis, and SPC Hagy. All have demonstrated their capacity for increased responsibility in leaps and bounds both before and during this deployment. I continue to expect them to set the standard in taking the fight to the enemy.

Special recognition goes to the following individuals for their performance to date: SGT

White - Maintained exceptional command and control after his vehicle was damaged by an IED and as a dismount team leader. SPC Deantoni and PV2 Owen – Their actions saved the rest of a crew after the vehicle was damaged by an IED. SPC Imhoff – Excellent performance as the gunner on C22 by identifying an insurgent planting an IED on the side of the road and then destroying the insurgent's house with a main gun round after the individual ran into it. SGT Rowland as an aggressive tank commander during ambushes and patrols, also destroying an insurgent house with main gun. PFC Palmer as a tank driver identifying a pressure plate IED in the road. PFC Wallace as both tank driver and as assistant armorer fixing several weapons during the operation. SPC Scarborough – Saved a HMMWV gunner's life when the vehicle turned over by selflessly pulling him on top of himself. PVT Varner will be the first to receive a Purple Heart after his tank was damaged by an IED, followed next by SSG Kelly after being wounded by an arrow during a patrol. SGT White, SPC Garcia, SSG Kellner, and SGT Record all received Division Coins from the Division Command Sergeant Major for their outstanding performance to date. Additionally, PFC Perez distinguished himself throughout the last month with his eagerness to volunteer for every mission, no matter the position available.

Please continue your outstanding support of your loved one. Every little note and care package is greatly

appreciated, and helps us keep track of the important things back home during our busy schedules. We miss you and we love you, even if we don't get enough opportunities to say it.



PFC Willis, SPC Garcia, and SGT Barton work diligently to set up the Company Command Post at TAA Carnivore



C23 establishes security on the perimeter of TAA Carnivore.



Mechanics drop the FRS in the maintenance area of TAA Carnivore.



2nd Platoon conducting patrol on RTE San Juan



1st Platoon returning to TAA Carnivore after a mounted patrol

CPT Stefan McFarland
Carnivore 6

DOG NEWS

Greetings from the Dog Pound here at FOB Iskandariyah. Team DOG is currently conducting a variety of missions in and around the city of Musayyib from cordon and search operations to stability operations. Our focus is the security of Musayyib, Taheer, and Al-Seddah. Maintaining and improving security in these towns is great challenge and it tests the grit of everyone, but Team DOG has acquitted itself well. We work very closely with the Iraqi Police in the area, and they're with us on most missions. We

try to improve our relationship with the IPs every day and already we're seeing signs that our efforts are paying off. The soldiers in Team DOG are doing some great work. They're professional and focused on accomplishing the mission, even if it is sometimes thankless. We work with a variety of force multipliers that are in support of 1-67 AR, and they've been a great help too. I would be remiss if I didn't thank you, the families, for your support during this challenging time. Thank you for all you do. Without you taking care of business there, we couldn't take care of business here.

I would also like to recognize some of our soldiers for recent promotions. Congratulations to SSG Noel, SSG Parker, SGT Lovvorn, SGT McElfresh, SGT Mosley, SGT Sarracino, SGT Williams, PV2 Engle, and PV2 Paradiso for their recent promotions. All of them have earned those promotions and demonstrate every day why the Army promoted them. Great work! Again, thanks for your support and keep the mail coming! God bless you and keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our hearts.



CPT Oliver, 1LT Akinbayo, 1LT Del Toro, 1LT Mignano,

SSG Binion, and SSG Ortiz at the Taheer IP Station for breakfast.



1SG Decker delivering humanitarian goods following operations in zone

CPT Irvin Oliver
Dog 6

ELIMINATOR NEWS

To the families and loved ones of the Eliminators. 28 December was a tragic day for the company when CPL Forbes was killed while on patrol in the Eliminator Area of Operations. But the men of the Eliminators have kept their focus on our mission, and our safety. The battalion has provided grief counseling for the soldiers, and a memorial service was held on the 2nd of January for Aaron. In attendance was BG Halverson, COL Tully, and the other BN Commanders of 2nd Bde. SGT Webster spoke on behalf of Aaron, and SPC Tsoucalas read from the bible. I also spoke on behalf of Aaron, and will send out via e-mail, the program, my speech, and a video of the events.

Since that day your soldiers have been continuing to execute their mission. 1st and 2nd Platoon conduct two patrols a day, and man an observation post on a 24 hour basis. Normally, the soldiers go out during the day and meet the local farmers. This involves taking pictures of all the adult males, and getting the location of each house marked on a map. At night the soldiers patrol the Area of Operations, and focus on detaining any person out after the evening curfew. The soldiers in our CRT work long hours each day helping to prepare and maintain all our vehicles, including the up-armored vehicles we have received while here in Iraq. HQ mans our Command Post 24 hours a day maintaining communications with our patrols and BN, and 1SG keeps them busy cleaning up our tents, and improving our area.

Everyday our soldiers our conducting mission with a partner company from the Iraqi Army. We have been able to reduce the number of missions each soldier participates in by essentially taking an equal number of Iraqi and American soldiers on each patrol. Everyday we train and operate with these soldiers brings us closer to building the sufficiency of the Iraqi Army, and our own replacement by the Iraqi Army. 1LT Ryan and SSG Jones closely coordinate with the Iraqi Army to provide patrols, and then train these soldiers in the proper conduct of our patrol activities. Our IA counterparts are hardworking and dedicated, and with their effort we lead the BN in the number of combined patrols.

Since your soldiers have arrived we have moved into our tent areas, and as we receive supplies helping the soldiers to construct walls to create private spaces. Each soldier generally has a space of about 8' by 8' that is theirs, and as building material comes in we will include walls in this space. We have set up a satellite television with Armed Forces Network in a dayroom for the soldiers to watch American TV, and we have also set up a satellite internet connection for any soldier with a computer. 1SG Wesley has set up in the dayroom connections for the soldiers to come in and use during their off time. 1SG Wesley also found new beds and mattress for all the soldiers, and we have put new liners over the tents just in time for the winter rainy season.

To all the families and loved ones, I wish you luck for the coming year. We here are thinking of you everyday, and for our eventual return to Ft Hood.

CPT James Sturm
Eliminator 6

FURY NEWS

December was an exciting month for Fury in a number of ways. The company deployed to FOB Iskandariyah with 1-67 Armor in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Fury spent a couple of weeks at Camp Buehring, Kuwait preparing for the upcoming rotation in Iraq. During this time, we participated in a battalion weapons

familiarization, a three-day convoy live-fire exercise, an Entry Control Point (ECP) training, along with training in our respective jobs. After this train-up in Kuwait, the company moved north to occupy Iskandariyah and provide combat logistics to 1-67 Armor as they patrol our Area of Operations. All sections of Fury have done an outstanding job moving directly into their roles without missing a beat. Thank you to all for all of the hard work and patience displayed as we began out operations.

Congratulations are in order to a number of individual soldiers, as well. SGT Jordan, SGT Casey, SSG Scofield, SSG Canas, PFC Melnik, and PFC Hutchison all re-enlisted while in Kuwait – thank you for your continued service to the Army and our nation. SGT Nold, SGT Negrete, SGT Flores, SSG Van Steenberg, and SSG Furtado all were promoted on December 31 in recognition of the hard work and professionalism they display on a daily basis. Additionally, several members of Fury have been nominated for the coveted Combat Action Badge, and several others have been noted for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and work above and beyond the call of duty. 1LT Pascal has joined the Fury Command Post to assist in day to day operations and is doing a great job streamlining the entry gate and identification card procedures. Thank you, again, to all of these soldiers and others for making Fury the best Forward Support Company in the 4th Infantry Division.

Nothing Moves Without Fury!

CPT Bradley A. Heath
Fury 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Appreciation: The Unspoken, Spoken.

There are no words that can accurately describe the feelings of separation that both you, our families back in the states, and we are experiencing, given the distance and sporadic communication. Among the myriad of emotions are loneliness, worry, anxiety and sadness. But there is another emotion that swims among the others that does not seem to belong. It is a dolphin among the sharks. It is appreciation. It is not for the emotions that seek to tear down, but appreciation for what the tearing down reveals: our inner most thoughts and feelings. As Americans, we are fiercely independent. We build walls of protection around our soul to keep out the uncaring jabs of a cold world. Unfortunately those walls often keep those we love on the outside as well. These walls are safety. To talk about feelings is like asking someone to poke a needle in my eye. Distance and separation may have put miles between us, but a path for intimate communication has been created. The once off limits discussions of life, death and love are now open doors. Many are recognizing that life is short and that we cannot let the important things of life go unsaid.

Let me issue a word of warning: Like a kid in his first visit to a candy store, so too is the person who utilizes this open communication without checking their own emotions first. Harsh, uncontrolled words at a distance are more damaging to a relationship than trivial words about nothing. We cannot easily fix the damage of an angry word spoken as we could when we were together. Then we could say we were sorry, give our loved one a hug and continually bug them until they forgave us. Now a poorly spoken word can fester. Take care of your words and speak encouragement to each other. Do not leave the important things unsaid.

God bless.

CPT (CH) Carl Otis